

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND
VILLAGES AND THE ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL
GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD TO AMEND THE
ADIRONDACK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN**

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Merrihew, who moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board have long advocated for a comprehensive review of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) - the document that governs the use of all 2,614,000 acres of state-owned land in the Adirondacks, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency is currently initiating a process to review and amend the SLMP - which has not had a major review in a quarter century – and is in need of significant revisions to reflect the realities of today’s Adirondacks and the needs of the people who seek to make their homes and earn their livings here, and

WHEREAS, upon passage of the Adirondack Park Agency Act by the New York State legislature, the Act required the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to draft the Adirondack State Land Master Plan for approval by the Governor, and

WHEREAS, Governor Rockefeller’s Memorandum in Support of the Act, and the Press Release he issued when he signed the SLMP in 1972 make it very clear that both he and the state legislature intended that the state interest in the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the Adirondacks be balanced with the needs of the residents for a strong economy and healthy communities, and

WHEREAS, the Statement of Legislative Findings and Purposes of the APA Act (Section 801) states:

“The basic purpose of this article is to insure **optimum overall conservation, protection, preservation, development and use** of the unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack park.

A further purpose of this article is to focus the responsibility for developing long-range park policy in a forum reflecting statewide concern. This policy shall recognize the major state interest in the conservation, use and development of the park’s resources and the preservation of its open space character, **and at the same time**,

provide a continuing role for local government.”

WHEREAS, for the past four decades, state land purchasing and management policy in the Adirondacks have been tipped decidedly against economic sustainability. During that time, many traditional uses have been severely restricted or prohibited, and 320,000 acres of productive private forest lands have been purchased and converted to “forever wild” state forest preserve lands, and

WHEREAS, today, as documented in the 2014 *Adirondack Park Regional Assessment*, Adirondack populations continue to dwindle, schools continue to lose students, and emergency services continue to struggle financially and lose volunteers, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the Agency’s current willingness to review and amend the SLMP, it is incumbent on local government to take this **unique** opportunity to support amendments to the SLMP that reflect the need for economic development **sensibly balanced** with the character of the Adirondacks, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board (Review Board) and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV) have prepared the attached list of their recommendations for changes in the SLMP.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors hereby states its support for the recommended amendments to the State Land Master Plan attached hereto, and encourages the AATV and the Review Board to pursue said recommendations with all due haste, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors requests an amendment to the State Land Master Plan to allow additional development of recreational facilities at State owned “Intensive Use” areas. As times and recreational opportunities are constantly changing, and the process as it now stands requires a costly and exhaustive UMP amendment for each recreational purpose. This process can sometimes take years, resulting in projects and facilities constantly being behind the eight ball with respect to opportunities for recreation which generates revenue, jobs and full list of economic benefits. Therefore, this Board requests that the Master Plan allow the Management of these facilities to pursue uses as they see fit without the requirement to revisit the UMP process each and every time an idea is formed. The mere fact that it has been 25 years since this process was last done speaks for itself and interferes with the profitable and economical operation of facilities with these types of restrictions. This Board understands that wilderness areas should be protected, however, “Intensive Use” areas are just that, and the Management of these areas should be left to the people the State has placed in charge to oversee their operation and development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Deputy Director of Planning, Kathy Regan, Adirondack Park Agency, PO Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977 and via email to SLP_Comments@apa.ny.gov, ;and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Charles Schumer, Congresswoman-Elect Elise Stefanik, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator James E. Seward, Senator Joseph A. Griffo, Senator Patty Ritchie, Senator Kathy Marchione, Senator David Valesky, Senator Liz Krueger, Assemblyman Dan Stec, Assemblywoman Janet L. Duprey, Assemblyman Al Graf, Assemblyman Mark Butler, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, DEC Region 5 Director Bob Stegemann, DEC Region 6 Director, Judy Drabicki, the Twelve Counties of the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Park Agency, and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

The following resolution was unanimously seconded and duly adopted.

**AMENDING NEW YORK STATE'S LAND MASTER PLAN
INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS BY
THE ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Amending New York's State Land Master Plan:

Return Balance to the Plan: The introduction to the Plan contends that "the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Adirondacks must be paramount." However, when the APA was created, and the SLMP was developed, the guiding documents from the state legislature and governor made it clear that the **complementary needs of the environment and the economy *should be balanced*** on state lands. For the past four decades, state land purchasing and management policy in the Adirondacks have been tipped decidedly against economic sustainability. During that time, many traditional uses have been severely restricted or prohibited, and 320,000 acres of productive private forest lands have been purchased and converted to state forest preserve lands. Today, as documented in the 2014 Adirondack Park Regional Assessment, Adirondack populations continue to dwindle, schools continue to lose students, and emergency services continue to struggle financially and lose volunteers. The time is here to amend the SLMP to reflect the need for economic development that is complementary with the character of the Adirondacks.

Maintain Scenic Vistas: The writers of the SLMP were visionary in creating roadside pull-offs where visitors and local residents alike could enjoy a multitude of scenic vistas. Currently, however, there is no provision in the Plan to allow the trimming or removal of vegetative growth that blocks these views. We propose a provision be added to restore and maintain these vistas through trimming or cutting.

Expand Mountain Bike Uses: Modern visitors bring bikes to explore the Adirondacks, but cannot see some of our most majestic areas. Currently, mountain bikes are not allowed in areas designated as Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe. The Plan should be updated to allow bicycles to use existing roads and state truck trails in those areas – corridors that would be designated for such uses if the road infrastructure exists to support it. Bikers, like hikers, hunters and those who fish, bring money into our communities and return regularly to use state land.

Address Invasive Species: As is all too apparent from the challenge now confronting Lake George, in the southeastern Adirondacks, we need to protect our lakes from the threat posed by invasive species – something that was not envisioned when the Plan was created. We propose adding a provision in the Plan that calls on the state DEC to create boat inspection and washing stations in Intensive Use areas on major water bodies and/or major Adirondack entry points to help block invasive species.

Improve Snowmobile Trails: The current Plan calls for snowmobile trails in the Adirondacks to be "essentially the same character as a foot trail." While that might have made sense with the snowmobiles being ridden in 1972 – due to the use of approved mechanical groomers and rider safety - it does not make sense in 2014. Snowmobile trails can certainly exist and be maintained over some

existing hiking trails, as the Plan suggests, but in order to be safe today's modern snowmobiles need wider paths, deeper snow pack and wider turns than what would be expected of a foot trail. We propose changing the language to ensure that snowmobile trails are not required to be of the same character as foot trails.

Allow For More Grooming of Cross Country Ski Trails: The current Plan allows cross-country ski trails to be groomed only on Intensive Use areas. We propose that grooming also be allowed in Wild Forest areas to open up more state land to be used by the passive recreational skier. Grooming is currently not permitted in Wild Forest areas, though the current guidelines call on the state to "provide the types of outdoor recreation that will afford public enjoyment without impairing the Wild Forest atmosphere."

Powder Skiing: We support the call by the Adirondack Powder Skier Association to create a provision in the Plan that would allow low-impact ski touring trails to be created in certain Wilderness and Wild Forest areas. Once again, it would bring a low-impact wintertime activity to certain areas of the Adirondacks that would help local and regional economies.

Improve Float Plane Access: When Lows Lake in St. Lawrence County was closed to float planes, the DEC promised to designate areas in the Adirondacks where floatplanes would be allowed to land, leave visitors and take off again. That designation has not yet happened and we call on the APA to study alternative lakes for landings and to make good on that DEC promise!

Natural Materials/Bridges: New and existing bridges are currently required to be constructed of natural materials. Suspension bridges, such as the existing bridge at Whitehouse on the Northville-Placid Trail, are scheduled for removal because steel cables were used in the original construction. Likewise, a new bridge proposed over the Cedar River in the Essex Chain Lakes, would have a lower profile, if permitted to be constructed of "man-made" materials, such as steel. The plan needs to take a common sense approach to new bridge construction and maintaining existing infrastructure.

Amend the Signage Policies: Many small businesses are located off the main highways on side roads where the travelling public is not aware of their existence due to current sign restrictions. Small business is the largest segment of our economy and promoting such with appropriate signage may make the difference for their survival. Additionally, there are few signs alerting tourists to our major attractions, such as the Adirondack Museum and the Wild Center. Exit 29 on the Northway is a prime example where tourists could exit for these attractions, yet there are no signs on the Northway or at the exits when they get off. We propose amending the SLMP to allow standardized signs on the Northway, other main highways and state rights of way directing visitors to lodging, gas, food, local businesses, and tourist destinations.

**RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
FOR DECEMBER 9, 2014 AT 11:30 A.M. TO CONSIDER THE
2015 ESSEX COUNTY TENTATIVE BUDGET**

The following resolution was offered by Supervisors Marnell and Gilliland, who moved its adoption.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a Special Board Meeting to be held on December 9, 2014, at 11:30 a.m. to consider the 2015 Essex County Tentative Budget, as follows:

1. To permit the Board of Supervisors the opportunity to submit changes to the 2015 Tentative Essex County Budget and to discuss and debate the same, to pass any resolutions with respect thereto, together with consideration of any ancillary matters which relate to the 2015 Essex County Budget including, but not limited to:
 - a) Resolution accepting the 2015 Tentative Essex County Budget subject to amendment and final adoption of the 2015 Essex County Budget.
 - b) Any resolutions amending the 2015 Tentative Essex County Budget.
 - c) Any resolutions amending the 2015 Tentative Essex County Budget modifying the amounts to be transferred from the General Fund within said budget.
 - d) Resolution adopting the 2015 Tentative Essex County Budget, as amended, as the 2015 Essex County Budget and appropriating funds pursuant to County Law §356.
 - e) Resolution levying the 2015 County and Town Taxes and Assessments, approving the completed tax rolls, and directing the execution of the relieved tax warrants.
 - f) Resolution amending the 2015 Tentative Essex County Budget by increasing or decreasing the amount to be appropriated from the unexpended and unreserved fund balance (General Fund) to either increase or decrease the tax levy.
2. Resolution introducing proposed Local Law #1 of 2015 - Salaries of County Officers Elected or Appointed.
3. Resolution adopting Local Law #4 of 2014 - Best Value Procurement.
4. Resolution adopting Local Law #3 of 2014 - Overriding the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c.

This resolution was unanimously seconded and adopted.

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2% SALARY INCREASE FOR
EMPLOYEES IN THE 2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET, AND
AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN TO ESTABLISH A
SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO BE APPOINTED IN 2015 RELATIVE
TO FUTURE REQUESTS FOR SALARY INCREASES**

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Scozzafava, who moved its adoption.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts the 2% salary increase for employees in the 2015 Essex County Tentative Budget and further authorizes the County Chairman to establish a Special Committee to be appointed in 2015, relative to future requests for salary increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Special Committee shall prepare a report for those salary increases and position reviews which will present a plan spread out for two to three years to the County Manager and the Essex County Board of Supervisors.

This resolution was duly seconded by Supervisor Grinnell, and adopted upon a roll-call vote, as follows:

AYES: 1523 votes (Merrihew, McNally, Scozzafava, Politi, Grinnell, Preston)
NOES: 1343 votes (Morrow, Harrington, Gardner, Douglas, Ferebee, Blades, Marnell, Whitson, Connell, Gilliland)
ABSENT: 55 votes (Canon, Moore)